

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Beginning on page 3, line 15, and ending on page 3, line 21, please delete the following paragraph.

By using the objective measure it is easy to track performance in naturalness of the speech synthesizer, thereby allowing efficient development of the speech synthesizer. In particular, the objective measure can serve as criteria for optimizing the algorithms for speech unit selection and speech database pruning.

Beginning on page 4, after line 18, please insert the following paragraph:

By using the objective measure it is easy to track performance in naturalness of the speech synthesizer, thereby allowing efficient development of the speech synthesizer. In particular, the objective measure can serve as criteria for optimizing the algorithms for speech unit selection and speech database pruning.